

U.S. - Mass. - Cambridge

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Eighth Annual Report

OF THE

Associated Charities of Cambridge.

NOVEMBER, 1890.

ORGANIZED DECEMBER, 1881.

INCORPORATED JANUARY 16, 1883.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS:

WILLIAM H. WHEELER, PRINTER,
1890.



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Treasurer. — HENRY N. TILTON.

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WILLIAM T. PIPER.	

Secretary and Treasurer, Ex. officiis.

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The TREASURER (<i>ex officio</i>).	MR. C. H. WARNER.	MRS. CHAMBERLIN.
MR. HOWARD.	MRS. GOODNOW.	MRS. RAND.

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MR. TILTON.	MISS WELLS.	MRS. WELLINGTON.
DR. DOW.	MISS DREW.	MRS. WHITNEY.

On Registration Office.

The SECRETARY (<i>ex officio</i>).	DR. VAUGHAN.	MRS. WELLINGTON.
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On Public Meetings.

The PRESIDENT (<i>ex officio</i>).	MR. PEABODY.	MR. WALKER.
	MISS MORSE.	MR. ABBOTT.

On Suppression of Begging.

MRS. DEMERRITT.	MR. PIPER.
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The Board of Directors meets at the Central Office on the second Thursday of each month at 4.30 P.M.

The Old Cambridge Conference meets at the Social Union Rooms, 42 Brattle Street, on the first and third Mondays of each month at 4 P.M.

The Cambridgeport Conference meets at the Central Office on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 4 P.M.

The North Cambridge Conference meets at the Library of the Universalist Church, North Avenue, on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 3 P.M.

OLD CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE.

Executive Committee.

President. — W. T. PIPER. *Secretary* — MRS. J. G. THORP, JR.
MRS. J. P. COOKE. REV. E. H. HALL. MRS. B. VAUGHAN.
DR. C. E. VAUGHAN. MISS A. R. WELLS.

Ways and Means Committee.

MISS S. WYMAN, *Chairman*.
MRS. C. E. HUBBARD. MRS. J. A. SWAN. MRS. J. J. GREENOUGH.
MRS. M. DEMERRITT. MRS. H. N. WHEELER. MISS O. SWAN.
DR. C. E. VAUGHAN.

Committee on Intemperates.

J. G. THORP, JR. E. M. PARKER. A. B. HART.
REV. E. H. HALL.

CAMBRIDGEPORT CONFERENCE.

President. — MRS. W. W. WELLINGTON. *Secretary.* — REV. JOHN TUNIS

Executive Committee.

MRS. W. W. WELLINGTON. MISS MARIA MURDOCK. MRS. M. A. BACON.
MRS. J. GOODNOW. MRS. G. F. RICKER. MRS. D. A. TOWNER.
MRS. E. A. SANBORN. MISS VELMA M. MORSE.

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MRS. W. W. WELLINGTON, *Chairman*. MISS M. L. DREW, *Secretary*.
MRS. GEO. L. WRENN. MRS. M. J. HADLEY.
MISS S. A. PEAR.

Committee on Clothing and Mending Class.

MRS. GEO. L. WRENN, *Chairman*.
MISS MACKINTOSH. MISS BENT. MISS BILL.
Assistants. — MRS. G. F. RICKER. MISS LOUISE M. BROOKS.
MISS L. M. CHAMBERLIN. MRS. M. M. ROGERS.
MISS M. G. WATRIS. MISS ELLA DAVIS.
MISS FISKE. MISS LINCOLN.
MISS BLISH. MRS. WAITE.
MRS. SANBORN. MRS. CHANDLER.

Committee on Temperance.

REV. ROBERT ELY. REV. JOHN TUNIS.

NORTH CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE.

Executive Committee.

President. — MRS. G. N. CHASE.

Vice-President. — MRS. M. E. BROWN. *Secretary.* — MRS. L. H. WHITNEY.
MRS. H. C. RAND. MISS C. H. HAPGOOD.
MRS. WILLIAM H. WOODBRIDGE.

Ways and Means Committee.

MISS C. A. HAPGOOD, *Chairman*. MRS. H. C. RAND.
MRS. W. H. WOODBRIDGE.

CENTRAL OFFICE, CENTRAL SQUARE, CAMBRIDGEPORT.

Registrar, MISS S. A. PEAR. — OFFICE HOURS, 9 A. M. TO 12 M.

Agent, J. WATSON HARRIS. — OFFICE HOURS, 2 TO 4 P. M.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF CAMBRIDGE.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS.

THE work of the Associated Charities of Cambridge has been carried on for eight years. During that time it has undertaken an organized oversight of all the charitable work of the city, so far as the persons dispensing relief would allow.

Its purpose has been to discourage indiscriminate charity, and to inculcate and practise a systematic method by which the poor may be stimulated to self-help, rather than allowed to depend upon alms.

In this we have had the co-operation of nearly all the active workers in Cambridge charities, excepting some churches, and not including Ward III, where we have been unable to get a foot-hold.

How far we have succeeded, must be judged by those who are familiar with Cambridge charities.

This much the Directors believe has been accomplished, namely : that the public has been made familiar with the principle that much of the old-fashioned, promiscuous alms-giving was not genuine charity, but was an injury to the poor and a danger to the city. There is now a pretty general conviction that the distress of poverty cannot be met by indulging a momentary impulse to give money. Charitable relief, public and private, is mischievous unless

administered cautiously, and upon a plan arranged with a positive purpose to prevent pauperising the poor.

But there is an aspect of the work which is in danger of being overlooked in this change of view, and that, too, the most important aspect. The main object of the Associated Charities is charity. It is not a police system. It does not exist, solely or chiefly, to break up begging or detect fraud, or prevent a waste of money, or furnish a directory of relieved cases. All this organization is not devised in order that there may be a bureau to which anyone may turn over every case of distress, and by this means at once satisfy his conscience and save himself the pain of close contact with suffering.

On the contrary, the fundamental idea of this new method is personal assistance to the poor. It is not less, but more, exacting of time and trouble and sympathy. It requires, not a gift of money, but constant and careful visiting, a friendly interest, and an anxious study of the way to help the poor to help themselves.

Now, anyone who thoughtfully sets about helping the poor, will soon find out two things: first, that he must know whether anyone else is helping his poor person; and second, that he must get into fellowship with other persons who are trying to help the poor in the same way, and must have their sympathy and advice.

Now, these are the things which the Associated Charities undertakes to supply. It keeps a record, so far as possible, of all the relief coming from any source to each case, and it gives, by means of the ward conference, a chance to consult and work with other persons who are meeting the same questions and difficulties.

The Associated Charities, therefore, calls upon every one who is willing to help the poor, to come and work in this society. There is abundant opportunity to follow out individual plans, and to use all the ingenuity and show all

the sympathy which anyone may wish to put into his work, and there is at the same time, the opportunity to get that indispensable help which those who have a common object can give to each other.

Our agent, Mr. Harris, has continued his valuable work, and has made 1463 and received 543 calls during the past year.

Statistics regarding the work of the year ending September 1, 1890, and the reports of the several Conferences follow.

CAMBRIDGE, *November, 1890.*

The following statistics are made up September 1st in each year :

Whole number of cases reported since December 1st, 1881, 2054.

	1888-9.	1889-90.
Cases registered during the year	616	528
New Cases Registered	243	155
Impostors, giving a false or no address, or not in Cambridge	38	24
Individuals reporting	86	87
Churches in Cambridge reporting	13	2
Families reported in Old Cambridge . .	95	76
“ “ North “	38	28
“ “ East “	112	95
“ “ Cambridgeport	333	276
“ regularly visited in Old Cambridge .	42	40
“ “ “ North “	15	13
“ “ “ Cambridgeport	60	53
Visitors in Old Cambridge	28	28
“ North Cambridge	16	15
“ Cambridgeport	32	29

OLD CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Conference of Ward I, Old Cambridge, has held during the past winter of 1889-90, fourteen regular meetings with an average attendance of thirteen persons, and two public meetings where fifty or sixty were present.

The regular meetings have been held this year in the parlors of the Girls' Club, at the Social Union Rooms, instead of in the vestry of the First Parish Church, as formerly.

There have been 28 visitors on the active visiting list, and there have been visited about 40 families, some very frequently, and others only occasionally, or merely for investigation when it has not proved necessary to put a regular visitor on the case.

At the annual meeting on November 4, 1889, Mr. Caleb H. Warner, who has so long and worthily served as President of this Conference, definitely resigned his position, and Mr. William T. Piper was chosen President in his place. With this exception, the Executive Committee of the past year was re-elected.

The Mending Class of the Ways and Means Committee has continued its work, and sends in the following report:

The Mending Class, which opened December 12, closed April 10, a week earlier than was expected, owing to want of work.

Donations came in very freely early in the winter, but the last part of the time it was very difficult to find enough work for the women. The number of women was ten, the average attendance seven. They seemed very much interested in their work, and were apparently grateful for the help.

Number of garments given out, 375. Money expended, 75 cents, for cotton, needles and tape.

The first general public meeting was held on Jan. 6, 1890, and, though we were disappointed in not hearing Mrs. Charles G. Ames speak on the beginning of charity organization in Philadelphia, Rev. F. G. Peabody gave an interesting account of what he had seen of the charity work in East London — Toynbee Hall and St. John's House — with the details of their management, and how the classes, meetings, entertainments, etc., were conducted there. He suggested the conclusion that such charity work was most efficient and satisfactory where individual leaders put their energy, devotion and enthusiasm into the work, and in that connection instanced the great success of the temperance coffee houses in Liverpool, in comparison with their very limited success in London.

The second public meeting was held April 7, when Miss Z. D. Smith, of the Associated Charities of Boston, spoke very interestingly on the Aims and Methods of the Associated Charities. She gave a good explanation of the methods of organization and of work, and cited many instances of the good done; of the great assistance rendered in the detection of frauds, and of much-needed pecuniary relief given through outside channels, on the strength of the investigation and recommendation of the Associated Charities.

Although several very interesting cases have come up during the work of this year, there seems to be none that are especially fitted to be embodied in a general report, as

some of the best work has been done in quiet, and for one reason or another, had best remain so.

There have been the usual cases of timely assistance given, which has tided a family over a time of destitution or illness, and reinstated the head of the family in a regular occupation, and thus enabled the family to become again self-supporting. On the whole, the work has been encouraging.

ANNIE L. THORP,

Secretary.

CAMBRIDGEPORT CONFERENCE.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

THE Cambridgeport conference has held fifteen meetings during the last year with an average attendance of 10. There have been more or less actively engaged in the work of the Conference 29 visitors besides the Agent and Registrar. At these meetings have been considered 275 cases, to each of which has been given all the thought and sympathy and aid possible to the Conference. As usual, many of these cases have been discharged as unworthy, and fraudulent impositions. Whenever the case was one of real need or suffering, however, the help has been liberally provided, and in such manner as was necessary. The Howard Benevolent Association has cheerfully co-operated in any case for which their help was desired.

JOHN TUNIS.

*Secretary.*REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CLOTHING AND MENDING
CLASS.

I have to report for the season of 1889-90 that we have received 1367 articles; of this number 93 pieces of work came from the City Mission Sewing School, upon its dissolution. We have given out through our sewing class 757 articles, through visitors 93 articles, making a total

distribution of 850 pieces. The class has held 24 meetings from Nov. 7th to May 1st, inclusive, the only Thursday omitted being April 3d, which was Fast Day. 53 names have been on record, and the attendance has averaged 25 to 30.

The different departments have been in charge of efficient, conscientious keepers.

In offering this report of our year's work we feel constrained to make an appeal to your intelligent sympathy and co-operation. We think there are good reasons for the existence of this phase of charity-work.

1. The Sewing Class supplies a proper medium for distribution of half-worn clothing. The recipients prove their worthiness by their willingness to work, and it is a real blessing to these people, who live from hand to mouth, to bring clothes into the house ready for use. Many of them will not last long, but they will provide for present necessities.

2. The Class is a helping hand to minor morals. We intend to have no ragged garments given out; we wish all the mending done neatly and thoroughly. Most of the women are poorly provided with under-clothing, they think it is all they can do to provide decent externals. We aim to create a desire for a neat wardrobe, and we feel as we put into bundles these clean, well-made garments, we are giving a chance to womanly virtues,—neatness, thrift, self-respect—and we remember the Scripture that joins cleanliness to godliness.

3. The Class affords a means of friendly communication between the poorest and the more favored members of society. The women do not come as beggars. They put on their best, they are treated with courtesy, they feel they give a fair equivalent, two hours work, for the ordinary pay; it is under pleasant conditions and in the society of ladies. They are accustomed to speak of it as the Sewing Circle.

4. And we think the Class offers to these women an innocent and elevating recreation. The fact of having anywhere to go is a pleasure in these barren, hard-pressed lives. The spacious room, the friendly ladies, the pleasure of members, the reading or the music; it lifts the burden a little while, and the change is rest.

But to do any justice to this work, we need better equipment. We must have a larger corps of helpers, we need more workers in each department.

We want a fund for emergency. A small sum from each of the sewing societies of our churches would save us from embarrassing dilemmas, and make it possible to manage our work better. The women come as regularly as the week comes around and sometimes the mending gives out, and the new cotton has all been used. But if the director can then supply a few yards of calico and flannel, we can provide work until more old clothes are sent in.

We would like a systematic visitation from the churches. A visiting delegate from the church societies would do us good and keep up interest in our work through the community.

MRS. GEO. L. WRENN,
Chairman.

WARD FIVE CONFERENCE.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

WE are about to enter upon the work of a new year, and, on the threshold, let us pause a moment, and review the work we have accomplished in the past twelve months, and glance forward to the work which is waiting for our hands the coming year.

We have held eighteen business meetings, with an average attendance of eight members. In preceding years, "public meetings" have been held under the auspices of this Conference, and we have been stimulated and encouraged to meet the demands of our work by the experience of others who have made charitable work a study. The past year, our time has been spent devising "ways and means" for the needy, and we have forgotten the public meeting. Let us do better (for ourselves) the coming year.

The number of visitors has been fifteen; six of this number, for good and sufficient reasons, have declined to serve as active visitors; they have rendered valuable assistance by investigating special cases, and in other ways.

Thirteen families have been visited during the year, and may be classified as follows: eight widows with dependent children; two wives with invalid husbands and dependent children; intemperance, desertion and old age are the causes of want in the remaining three families. The number of families under our care has steadily de-

creased since "no license" became a law in Cambridge. Eight cases of begging have been reported. A man who seemed to be well acquainted with the method of the "new charity," gave as his residence, "in a barn or under a cart," and then asked, "Are you one of them Associated Charity women?" The rest were residents of Boston and the other wards in Cambridge, which gives rise to the suggestion, that the work of this Conference has raised the morals of the unfortunate in Ward V above begging.

I will mention a few cases to prove that our work is practical, and not theoretical. A young woman called at the house of a clergyman late in the evening, and told the following story: she had lost her situation, had been defrauded of her wages; she was penniless, friendless, and unable to find lodging for the night. The story implied that a little money would be gratefully received. Subsequent investigation proved that she was a "professional beggar," giving special attention to the clergymen.

The pension secured for the war widow named in last year's report, has been the marked event of the year. Last June she was made happy by the announcement of \$1378.75 back pension, a widow's pension of \$12 per month during life, or so long as she remains a widow, and \$2 per month for the three children until they are each sixteen years of age. The perseverance shown by the visitor, who was instrumental in securing the pension, is worthy of record.

Another interesting case is that of a widow with four children, whose name was taken from the overseer's list soon after the organization of this Conference. With a little help from the Charitable Relief Society in times of sickness, the family have been self-supporting. Last winter the mother died, after a long and painful illness. The sons, now seventeen and nineteen years of age, are

anxious to keep the home, and are willing to work for that purpose. The daughter, fifteen years of age, has taken the position of housekeeper, and the younger still attends school. This is a case of helping to self-support those who are anxious to help themselves.

In two families under our care, there is no visible improvement; inefficiency in one, and intemperance in the other, have baffled our efforts in their behalf. We have few visitors who are willing to work such cases, and *what to do* with this class of people, is still a problem.

Through the efforts of the visitors, a little boy suffering with hip disease, was made comfortable in an invalid's chair in place of the usual school-room desk.

Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners were provided for worthy families, and Santa Claus was enabled to fill to overflowing the children's Christmas stockings. A little working boy enjoyed the Youth's Companion every week, and there have been *many* unwritten deeds of kindness. The Conference, through the Charitable Relief Society, assisted a worthy family, in payment of rent, during the serious illness of the husband.

There is little variation in our work from year to year. The majority are cases of long standing, whose causes of want are sickness and death. We have been cheered with the result of patient, careful visiting. We need more active visitors, and will gladly welcome to our ranks *all* who will work with us.

In mid-winter we were obliged to accept the resignation of our President. Her extended information, excellent judgment and sound business principles, added greatly to the interest of our meetings. Our Vice-President has filled the vacancy in a very satisfactory manner.

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Charitable Relief Society, who have readily co-operated with us, rendering pecuniary assistance to those in distress.

We are indebted to the Prudential Committee of North Avenue Universalist Church, for generous hospitality, and to the benevolent people of North Cambridge for contributions of clothing.

We close our record of work for the year ending October 27, 1890, with hearty thanks to every one who has in any way helped us "to do good and to distribute."

MARY E. WHITNEY,

Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

NOVEMBER 19, 1889, TO NOVEMBER 18, 1890.

Receipts.

Balance on hand November 18, 1888	\$431.93
Subscriptions	897.62
	————— \$1329.55

Expenditures.

Salaries (Registrar and Agent) . . .	\$1000.00
Conference Expenses	20.50
Sundry Expenses (including Printing, Stationery, Postage and Office Expenses, and Car fares) . . .	145.56
	————— \$1166.06
Balance on hand Nov. 19, 1889 . . .	<u><u>\$163.49</u></u>

HENRY N. TILTON,

Treasurer.